

# **Speaker Biographies**

**2018**  
**Judicial Law Clerk**  
**Training Program**

**(in order of initial presentation)**

## **Speaker Biographies – 2018 Judicial Law Clerk Training Program**

### **James McHenry**

Director McHenry has previously served in the Executive Office for Immigration Review; he first joined the agency in 2003 through the Attorney General's Honors Program and returned to the agency in 2016, when he was appointed as an administrative law judge (ALJ) for EOIR's Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (OCAHO). Prior to rejoining EOIR in 2017, McHenry served as a Deputy Associate Attorney General working on a variety of immigration-related litigation matters and overseeing multiple components reporting to the Office of the Associate Attorney General. From 2014 to 2016, he served as an ALJ for the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in the Social Security Administration. Prior to that, he worked for the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as an Assistant Chief Counsel and, later, as a Senior Attorney where he served as a lead attorney for national security, denaturalization, and gang cases, anti-human trafficking operations, and worksite enforcement matters. He also served a detail as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia. Director McHenry earned a Bachelor of Science from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, a Master of Arts in political science from the Vanderbilt University Graduate School, and a Juris Doctor from the Vanderbilt University Law School.

### **MaryBeth Keller**

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed MaryBeth Keller as the chief immigration judge in September 2016. Immediately prior to her current position, and beginning in February 2008, Judge Keller served EOIR as the assistant chief immigration judge (ACIJ) for issues of judge conduct and professionalism. She also supervised courts and served as the agency representative and chief negotiator dealing with the National Association of Immigration Judges employee union. Judge Keller received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1984 from the Catholic University of America and a Juris Doctor in 1987 from the University of Virginia School of Law. From July 2004 to February 2008, Judge Keller served as general counsel at EOIR. During that time, from July 2006 to February 2008, she served as acting ACIJ for Conduct and Professionalism, and from October 2004 to April 2006, she served as acting chief administrative hearing officer. From 1988 to 2004, Judge Keller served as a senior manager and as an attorney at the Board of Immigration Appeals, EOIR. From 1987 to 1988, she served as a judicial law clerk in the 5th Judicial District of Iowa, in Des Moines, Iowa. Judge Keller is a member of the Iowa State Bar.

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### **Christopher Santoro**

Christopher A. Santoro was appointed as the principal deputy chief immigration judge in May 2018. Immediately prior to his current appointment Judge Santoro served as acting Assistant Director for Policy for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). From June 2017 through February 2018 he served as EOIR chief of staff. From July 2015 through January 2016, he served as deputy chief immigration judge (acting). From March 2012 through July 2015 Judge Santoro was an assistant chief immigration judge and oversaw operations in 11 immigration courts, new immigration judge training, and intergovernmental and external affairs. In May 2017, Judge Santoro retired as the chief trial judge for the U.S. Air Force Reserve after nearly 30 years of active and reserve duty, including more than 10 years as a military trial judge and deputy chief judge, four years as a judge on the U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, and assignments as senior regional prosecutor and appellate counsel. From 2009 to 2011, he served as special advisor for Enforcement and Removal Operations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2005 to 2009, Judge Santoro served in leadership roles in the Office of Inspection, Transportation Security Administration, DHS, including deputy director, senior advisor, and counsel. From 2001 to 2005, Judge Santoro was a trial attorney in the Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice. From 1988 to 1995, Judge Santoro served as a patrol officer for the Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, Police Department. Judge Santoro received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tufts University and a Juris Doctor from the Boston University School of Law. Judge Santoro is a member of the Colorado, District of Columbia, and New Hampshire Bars.

### **Jack Weil**

Jack H. Weil was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge (ACIJ), based in York, in December 2009. Judge Weil received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985 and a Juris Doctor in 1988, both from the University of Maryland. From 1994 to 2009, Judge Weil served as an immigration judge at the El Centro Immigration Court. From 1990 to 1994, he worked as associate counsel to the director, Executive Office for Immigration Review. From 1988 to 1990, Judge Weil was a judicial law clerk at the San Diego Immigration Court. In 2001, he joined the faculty of the National Judicial College where he teaches “Bias and Ethics for Administrative Law Judges” and serves as faculty assistant in the course on distance training of judges. He is co-author of “Deskbook on Evidence for Administrative Law Judges” published by the National Judicial College in 2006. Judge Weil is a member of the Maryland State Bar.

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### **Charles Adkins-Blanch**

Charles Adkins-Blanch is the Vice Chairman for the Board of Immigration Appeals. He was appointed by Attorney General Eric Holder in January 2013. Mr. Adkins-Blanch received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1984 from Grinnell College and a Juris Doctorate in 1990 from the National Law Center, George Washington University. He served as a BIA member from 2008 until his appointment as Vice Chairman. From 2004 to 2008, he served as an immigration judge at the Headquarters Immigration Court and, from 1995 to 2004, Mr. Adkins-Blanch served in EOIR's Office of the General Counsel, as General Counsel from 2000 to 2004, as acting General Counsel from 1999 to 2000, and as an associate General Counsel from 1995 to 1999. From 1990 to 1995, he worked for the BIA as an attorney advisor entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. From 1989 to 1990, he clerked in private practice with the firm of Maggio & Kattar, specializing in immigration and nationality law. Mr. Adkins-Blanch is a member of the District of Columbia and Virginia State Bars.

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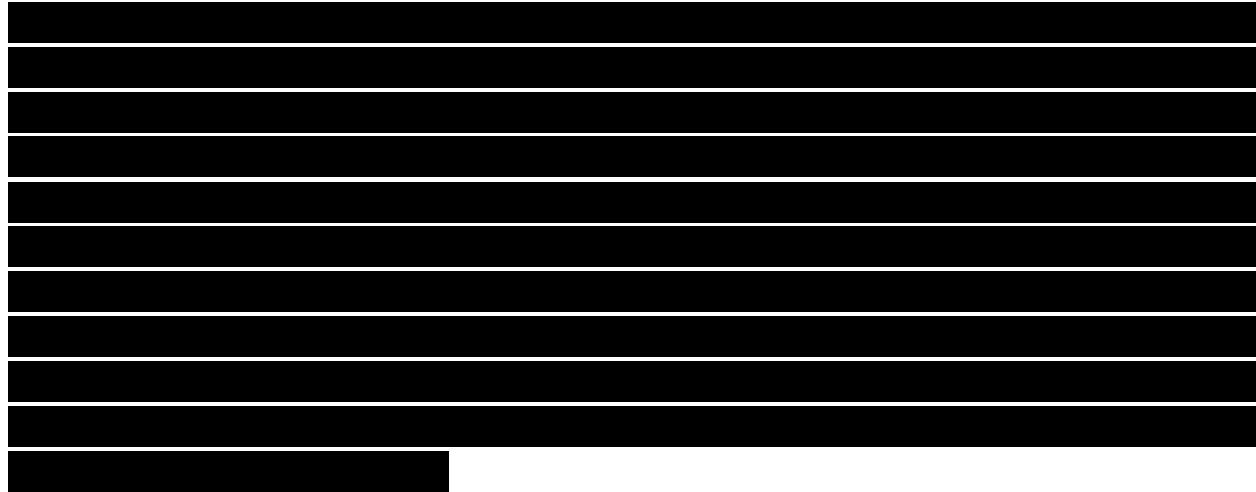


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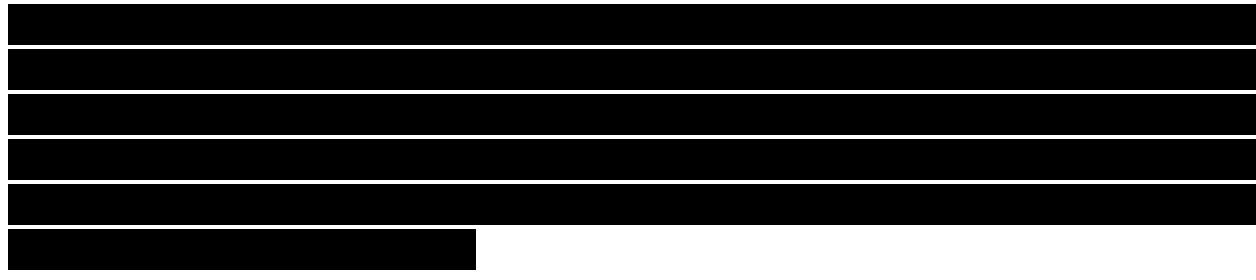


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### **John Crossett**

John P. Crossett is currently detailed as a Temporary Member of the Board of Immigration Appeals, a position he has held since January of 2018. Since 2001, Mr. Crossett has been an Attorney Advisor with the Board, and for the last few years he has been a member of the Board's training faculty, specializing in criminal law matters. Mr. Crossett is a member of the Virginia Bar and earned his law degree at the George Mason University School of Law in 1999.

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### **Michael Baird**

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Baird in April 2009. Judge Baird received a bachelor of business administration in 1989 from Clayton State University and a juris doctorate in 1992 from Georgia State University College of Law. From 2006 to April 2009, Judge Baird served as an assistant district attorney in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit in Georgia. From 2004 to 2006, he served as a judge in the Municipal Court of Jonesboro, Ga. From 1997 to 2004, he was Chief Judge for the Magistrate Court of Clayton County, Ga. From 1995 to 1996, Judge Baird was in private practice. From 1993 to 1995, he served as senior assistant solicitor general at the Clayton County Solicitor's Office. From 1992 to 1993, he was in private practice. From 1986 to 1990, Judge Baird was a police officer with the Lake City Police Department. From 1998 to 2008, he served as an assistant professor on the adjunct faculty in the university system of Georgia. Judge Baird is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

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### **Ernesto Molina**

Ernesto Molina received his B.A. in Speech Communication from CalPoly, San Luis Obispo in 1992. He received a J.D. from Santa Clara University in 1995. Upon completing the California Bar, Mr. Molina joined the Office of Immigration Litigation in 1995 through the Attorney General's Honors Program. As a trial attorney, he handled the government's response to petitions for review in the courts of appeals and lead or participated in class action litigation such as *Tefel v. Reno* and *Dominguez-Perez v. Trominski*. In November 2000, he was promoted to Senior Litigation Counsel. At that time, he continued to handle significant appellate and district court litigation, such as *INS v. St. Cyr* and *Turkman v. Ashcroft*. Mr. Molina was promoted to the position of Assistant Director, managing a team of 15 to 17 attorneys. In 2015, Mr. Molina was appointed the Senior Executive Service, serving as Deputy Director for the Office of Immigration Litigation, Appellate Section, where he manages a variety of topic areas, such as class action and other district court litigation, intellectual property administration, operational metrics, and hiring.

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